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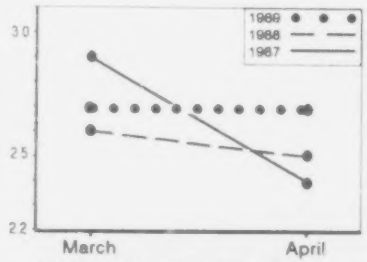
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A Monthly Report by the NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Prepared in Coordination with the UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

June 1989 | Wesley S. Noyes, Jr., Editor, Supervisor, Economic Analysis and Reports | (603)228-4124

April Unemployment Rate 2.7%, Same Rate as in March; Rate 0.2% Above Same Month Last Year

The unemployment rate in New Hampshire was unchanged from March to April this year, according to preliminary estimates. Unemployment in both months was recorded at 2.7 percent of the civilian labor force. This differs from the pattern of the past several years. Usually the unemployment rate has dropped from March to April. The civilian labor force and employment levels both declined by more than 3,000 over the month, according to the same estimates. This also departs from the labor force and employment increases observed in 1987 and 1988. The number of unemployed workers declined only slightly from March to April 1989. Although the preliminary estimates may be revised, there are indications that the economy is slowing down slightly. The April unemployment rate in New Hampshire is 0.2 percentage points above the April 1988 rate and 0.3 percentage points above the April 1987 rate.



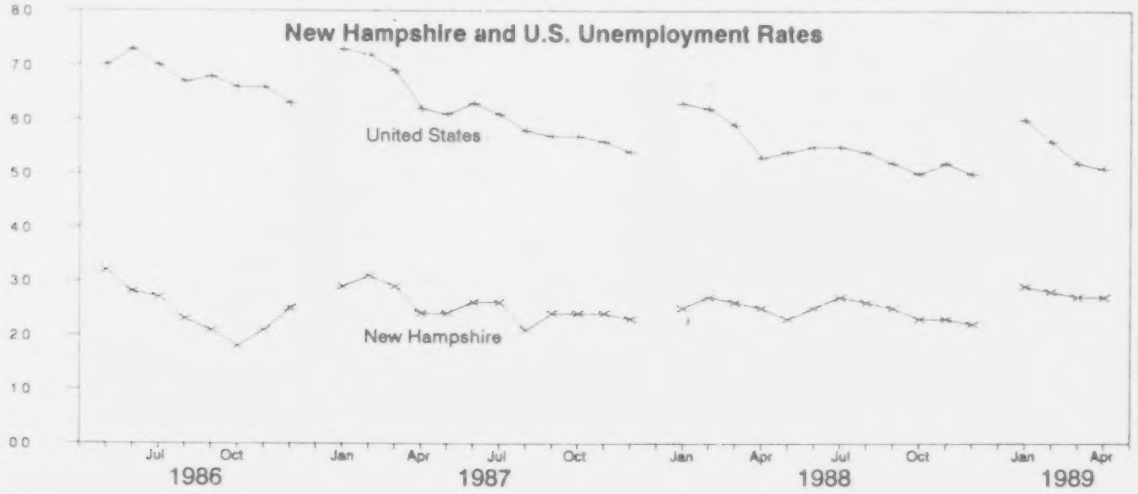
NH Unemployment Rate Trends
March to April last three years

Unemployment in New Hampshire declined from 16,730 in March to 16,640 in April. Unemployment was estimated to be 15,090 in April 1988.

The number of active applicants (job seekers) registered with the Department of Employment Security has increased about 3.5 times the increase in the number of unemployed workers compared to a year ago. Unemployment this April was 1,640 more than in the previous April. Active applicants increased by 5,760. There were 16,102 active applicants in April 1989 compared to 10,342 in April 1988. The increase in active applicants can be much larger than the increase in the number of unemployed for a couple of reasons. First, active applicants do not need to be unemployed; employed workers may also register with the Department for new job opportunities. Second, jobs may be more difficult to obtain as the economy appears to slow down; some unemployed workers may now be registering with the Department to improve chances of finding work.

The state civilian labor force in April 1989 was 606,780. This was 3,410 less than the March labor force of 610,190, but 11,310 higher than the April 1988 labor force of 595,470.

Nationally, the not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in April was 5.1 percent. This was lower than March,



Notes: *These unemployment rates were calculated using the new methodology adopted in January 1989. They are not directly comparable to monthly rates published prior to that time.*

Although monthly changes are included in this publication, it should be noted that these figures are not seasonally adjusted. Over-the-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal changes an could present misleading representation of underlying trends. To eliminate bias, it is more useful to compare any non-seasonally-adjusted statistic with that of twelve months earlier.

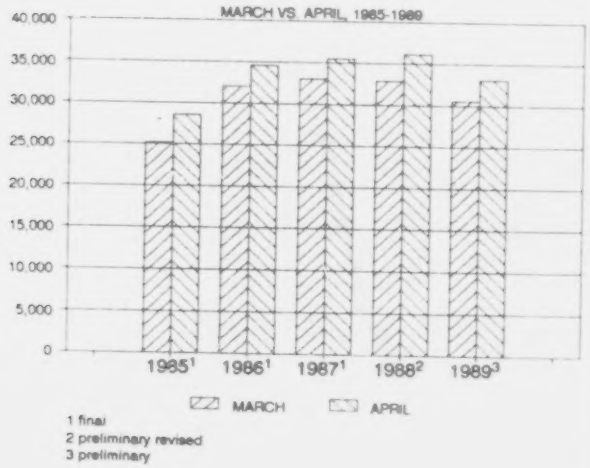
when the rate was 5.2 percent, and April 1988, when the rate was 5.3 percent. The United States civilian labor force was estimated to be 122,576,000 in April, 353,000 more than in March and 2,312,000 higher than in April 1988. Unemployment was 6,229,000 in April, 149,000 lower than in March and 130,000 lower than in April 1988.

Employment Trends in New Hampshire

April nonagricultural wage and salary employment in the state was 525,000, based on a monthly sample of employers. This was a drop from 526,200 in March. Again, this departs from the usual pattern at this time of year. Manufacturing employment decreased by 600, which accounted for half of the total change. Manufacturing had smaller drops in employment over the same time period in the previous two years (-250 in 1988 and -300 in 1987). Nonmanufacturing employment went down by 600 workers in the preliminary estimates, instead of increasing by several thousand as it did in 1988 and 1987.

The decline in nonmanufacturing employment is apparently not due to a changing pattern in construction employment. Although construction employment levels are down, seasonal patterns appear normal. The 1989 level is the lowest April total for construction [including mining] employment since 1985. While construction employment was estimated to be 3,050 lower than in April 1988, the increase since March was 2,500 workers. This is similar to the March-to-April increases of 3,200 workers in 1988 and 2,500 workers in 1987.

New Hampshire Construction (and Mining) Employment



Estimated employment in the service industries category fell over-the-month by 3,400. This is a notable change. Services employment over the same time period went down by 1,500 workers in 1988, while in 1987 it gained 150 workers. The likely cause was an early end to the winter sports season this year. Normally employment in winter recreation and dependent lodging establishments would drop later, at the same time when other service industries would be seasonally expanding. The service employment transition was discontinuous this year, causing the large drop from March to April.

Also, government employment dropped by 750, compared to a drop of 100 in 1988 and no change in 1987 from March to April.

Total nonagricultural wage and salary employment has grown by 6,950 workers since April 1988. Manufacturing has dropped by 800. Within manufacturing, the Electrical Products industry lost 650 employees and the Leather and Leather Products industry lost 250 employees. Nonmanufacturing employment went up 7,750 compared to April 1988. Trade industries employed 4,400 more workers than twelve months earlier, according to estimates. Government employment was up 3,150. Services employment was up 2,750 from a year earlier, despite the large drop from March to April this year. These employment increases in various nonmanufacturing sectors outweigh the large decline in construction employment discussed earlier. (For more detailed changes from one-month and twelve-months earlier, please refer to the table on page 4.)

Manufacturing employment will continue to be sensitive to national and international trends. Employment in import-sensitive industries such as leather products will probably continue to decline. Employment in defense-related industries will be affected by slow growth in defense spending. Jobs in high-technology industries will be affected by the slowdown in the computer field and competition from other areas.

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June 1989

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY AREA AND COUNTY*

	UNEMPLOYMENT								CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE				
	April 1990		March 1990		April 1989		Numerical Change From Previous:		April	March	April	Numerical Change From Previous:	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Month	Year	1990	1990	1989	Month	Year
United States**	6,229	5.1	6,378	5.2	6,356	5.3	(149)	(130)	122,576	122,223	120,264	353	2,312
New Hampshire	16,640	2.7	16,730	2.7	15,090	2.5	(90)	1,550	606,780	610,190	595,470	(3,410)	11,310
Berlin LMA	1,140	4.4	750	2.8	1,070	4.2	390	70	25,740	26,620	25,300	(880)	440
Claremont LMA	750	1.8	810	1.9	1,150	2.8	(60)	(400)	41,730	41,980	40,690	(250)	1,040
Concord LMA	1,400	2.6	1,490	2.7	1,040	2.0	(90)	360	53,820	54,620	52,670	(800)	1,150
Keene LMA	670	1.6	650	1.5	650	1.6	20	20	42,570	42,850	41,020	(280)	1,550
Laconia LMA	1,510	2.7	1,630	3.0	1,090	2.1	(120)	420	55,010	55,090	52,730	(80)	2,280
Littleton LMA	890	4.8	810	3.1	810	4.4	280	80	18,720	19,770	18,330	(1,050)	390
Manchester MSA	1,990	2.3	2,110	2.5	1,590	1.9	(120)	400	85,840	85,750	85,570	(110)	70
Nashua PMSA	2,760	2.8	2,970	3.0	2,530	2.5	(210)	230	99,560	100,480	99,450	(920)	110
NH portion Lawrence-Haverhill, Ma PMSA***	2,190	4.1	1,890	3.6	2,150	4.1	300	30	52,850	52,390	52,130	820	910
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester NH+Me MSA	2,640	2.0	3,140	2.4	2,380	1.8	(500)	260	133,080	133,330	130,410	(270)	2,950
Unattached Estimating Area	860	3.9	990	4.6	740	3.5	(130)	120	22,180	21,360	21,270	820	910
NH portion Lowell Ma PMSA	250	4.5	240	4.3	240	4.5	10	10	5,510	5,520	5,340	(10)	170
Counties													
Belknap	670	2.4	810	2.8	460	1.7	(140)	210	28,290	28,430	27,150	(140)	1,140
Carroll	720	3.8	600	3.1	470	2.5	120	250	19,080	19,400	18,380	(320)	700
Cheshire	580	1.5	570	1.5	600	1.6	10	(20)	37,920	38,180	36,580	(260)	1,340
Coos	1,000	5.0	930	3.0	1,120	5.6	370	(120)	20,120	20,830	19,940	(710)	180
Grafton	1,240	2.9	1,070	2.5	1,030	2.5	170	210	42,280	43,200	40,870	(920)	1,410
Hillsborough	5,000	2.7	5,280	2.8	4,270	2.3	(280)	730	186,700	187,400	185,670	(700)	1,030
Merrimack	1,620	2.5	1,680	2.6	1,220	1.9	(60)	400	64,790	65,440	63,340	(650)	1,450
Rockingham	4,060	3.2	4,040	3.2	3,840	3.1	20	220	126,840	126,280	124,520	560	2,320
Strafford	1,340	2.3	1,550	2.6	1,210	2.1	(210)	130	59,470	59,560	58,010	(90)	1,460
Sullivan	410	1.9	500	2.3	870	4.1	(90)	(460)	21,280	21,470	21,010	(190)	270

* *NH estimates based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 step handbook method" adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.*
** *In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.*
*** *New Hampshire Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.*

Note: Negative numbers in parentheses

Labor Market Area Unemployment Trends

Several labor market areas in the state experienced large changes in unemployment rates from March to April, even though the state unemployment rate was unchanged. The Littleton Labor Market Area (LMA) rate rose from 3.1 percent to 4.8 percent and the Berlin LMA rate rose from 2.8 percent to 4.4 percent. Both areas were affected by the end of the winter sports season. The spring thaw and the advent of "mud season" also caused unemployment in the logging industry. Five areas had higher unemployment rates in April than in March; seven areas had lower rates in April than in March.

The lowest area unemployment rate in April was 1.6 percent in the Keene LMA. Next lowest was 1.8 percent in the Claremont LMA. The Littleton LMA registered the highest area unemployment rate for the month.

March Unemployment Rate Lowest in Nation

The 2.7 percent March unemployment rate in New Hampshire was the lowest rate in the country. Connecticut had the second lowest rate at 3.0 percent. Unemployment rates in other New England states ranged from 3.8 percent for Vermont to 4.3 percent for Rhode Island. The highest jobless rate was 9.6 percent in Louisiana. Next highest rate was 9.5 percent in Alaska.

Manufacturing Sector Average Weekly Hours Unchanged From March; Average Hourly Earnings and Average Weekly Earnings Up Slightly

Average weekly earnings for manufacturing production workers rose very slightly (+$2.05) from March to April. This was due to an increase of only $0.05 in average hourly earnings; average weekly hours stayed the same at 41.0. Compared to twelve months earlier average weekly earnings increased $22.55. Average hourly earnings went up $0.55 over the same period. Average weekly hours were unchanged.

Average hourly earnings were estimated to be highest in the Food and Kindred Products industry ($13.01) in the nondurable goods sector. Average weekly earnings were also highest in the Food and Kindred Products industry ($536.01). Average weekly hours were greatest in the Primary Metal Products industry (45.3) in the durable goods sector.

Bruce DeMay

NEW HAMPSHIRE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT AS OF THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH

	Number of Workers			Numerical Change * From Previous:	
	April 1989	March 1989	April 1988	Month	Year
Labor Force Data **					
Civilian Labor Force	606,780	610,190	595,470	(3,410)	11,310
Unemployment	16,640	16,730	15,090	(90)	1,550
Percent of Labor Force	2.7	2.7	2.5	----	----
Employment Total	590,290	593,610	580,380	(3,320)	9,910
Persons involved in Labor Disputes	150	150	0	0	150
Employment by Industry ***					
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT	525,000	526,200	518,050	(1,200)	6,950
MANUFACTURING	117,350	117,950	118,150	(600)	(800)
Durable Goods	81,700	82,000	82,500	(300)	(800)
Lumber and wood products	5,700	5,600	5,800	100	(100)
Furniture and fixtures	1,350	1,400	1,550	(50)	(200)
Stone and clay products	3,400	3,400	3,450	0	(50)
Primary metal products	4,600	4,600	4,600	0	0
Fabricated metal products	6,950	7,000	6,800	(50)	150
Machinery (except electrical)	25,650	25,800	25,550	(150)	100
Electrical products	22,150	22,200	22,800	(50)	(650)
Miscellaneous products	2,250	2,300	2,250	(50)	0
Other durable goods	9,650	9,700	9,700	(50)	(50)
Nondurable Goods	35,650	35,950	35,650	(300)	0
Food and kindred products	2,700	2,800	2,700	(100)	0
Textile mill products	3,600	3,600	3,600	0	0
Apparel	1,750	1,800	1,750	(50)	0
Paper and allied products	5,700	5,700	5,700	0	0
Printing, publishing, and allied	8,800	8,750	8,700	50	100
Leather and leather products	3,100	3,200	3,350	(100)	(250)
Other nondurable goods	10,000	10,100	9,850	(100)	150
NONMANUFACTURING	407,650	408,250	399,900	(600)	7,750
Construction (including mining)	33,050	30,550	36,100	2,500	(3,050)
Transportation, communication, and utilities	17,750	17,600	17,750	150	0
Trade	135,400	134,700	131,000	700	4,400
Finance, insurance, and real estate	32,450	32,250	31,950	200	500
Service industry and other	116,900	120,300	114,150	(3,400)	2,750
Government	72,100	72,850	68,950	(750)	3,150
Federal	8,600	8,650	8,500	(50)	100
State	19,050	19,450	17,800	(400)	1,250
Local	44,450	44,750	42,650	(300)	1,800
Persons involved in labor disputes (not included in Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Total above)	150	150	0	0	150

* *Numbers in parentheses indicate negative numbers*
** *By place of residence*
*** *By place of establishment, March 1988 benchmark*

MSA LABOR FORCE, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT, AND NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT AS OF THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH

	Manchester MSA					Nashua PMSA					Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA				
	Number of Workers			Change*		Number of Workers			Change*		Number of Workers			Change*	
	April 1989	March 1989	April 1988	From Previous Month	From Previous Year	April 1989	March 1989	April 1988	From Previous Month	From Previous Year	April 1989	March 1989	April 1988	From Previous Month	From Previous Year
Labor Force Data**															
1 Civilian Labor Force	85,640	85,750	85,570	(110)	70	99,560	100,480	99,450	(920)	110	133,060	133,330	130,410	(270)	2,650
2 Unemployment	1,990	2,110	1,590	(120)	400	2,760	2,970	2,530	(210)	230	2,640	3,140	2,380	(500)	260
Percentage of Labor Force	2.3	2.5	1.9	----	----	2.8	3.0	2.5	XXX	XXX	2.0	2.4	1.8	----	----
3 Employment Total	83,500	83,490	83,980	10	(480)	96,800	97,510	96,920	(710)	(120)	130,420	130,190	128,030	230	2,390
4 Persons involved in Labor Disputes	150	150	0	0	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Employment by Industry***															
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT	85,850	85,150	85,400	700	450	94,650	94,550	95,300	100	(650)	111,900	111,150	109,300	750	2,600
MANUFACTURING	11,550	11,600	12,150	(50)	(600)	35,950	36,150	36,400	(200)	(450)	20,650	20,950	20,650	(300)	0
Durable Goods	6,950	7,000	7,650	(50)	(700)	30,000	30,100	30,000	(100)	0	12,650	12,850	12,750	(200)	(100)
Machinery and electrical products	3,900	3,900	4,450	0	(550)	22,700	22,750	22,400	(50)	300					
Other durable goods	3,050	3,100	3,200	(50)	(150)	7,300	7,350	7,600	(50)	(300)					
Nondurable Goods	4,600	4,600	4,500	0	100	5,950	6,050	6,400	(100)	(450)	8,000	8,100	7,900	(100)	100
Textile mill products	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0										
Other nondurable goods	3,500	3,500	3,400	0	100										
NONMANUFACTURING	74,300	73,550	73,250	750	1,050	58,700	58,400	58,900	300	(200)	91,250	90,200	88,650	1,050	2,600
Construction (including mining)	6,000	5,350	5,700	650	300	4,450	4,350	4,800	100	(350)	5,500	5,500	6,200	0	(700)
Transportation, communication, and utilities	5,300	5,500	5,250	(200)	50	2,600	2,600	2,500	0	100	3,050	3,050	2,900	0	150
Trade	23,850	23,650	23,800	200	50	21,350	21,700	22,400	(350)	(1,050)	26,900	28,600	27,450	300	1,450
Finance, insurance, and real estate	8,350	8,250	8,150	100	200	3,600	3,600	3,750	0	(150)	6,950	7,050	6,750	(100)	200
Service industry & other	21,800	21,850	21,500	(50)	300	19,350	18,900	18,200	450	1,150	20,850	19,850	20,050	1,000	800
Government	9,000	8,950	8,850	50	150	7,350	7,250	7,250	100	100	26,000	26,150	25,300	(150)	700
Federal	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0	950	900	900	50	50	11,000	10,850	10,700	150	300
State	800	800	750	0	50	200	200	250	0	(50)	5,400	5,500	5,400	(100)	0
Local	5,600	5,550	5,500	50	100	6,200	6,150	6,100	50	100	9,600	9,800	9,200	(200)	400
Persons involved in labor disputes (not included in Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment above)	150	150	0	0	150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Manchester MSA – includes the city of Manchester and the towns of Allenstown, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, and Hooksett.
Nashua PMSA – includes the city of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton.
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA – includes the New Hampshire cities of Dover, Portsmouth, Rochester, and Somersworth; the New Hampshire towns of Barrington, Durham, Exeter, Farmington, Greenland, Hampton, Lee, Madbury, Milton, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, North Hampton, Rollinsford, Rye, and Stratham; and the Maine towns of Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, North Berwick, Ogunquit, South Berwick, Wells, and York.

* *Numbers in parentheses indicate negative numbers*
** *By place of residence*
*** *By place of establishment, March 1988 benchmark*

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

(Establishment Survey estimates on this page are currently projected from March 1988 benchmark levels.)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr 1989	Mar 1989	Apr 1988	Apr 1989	Mar 1989	Apr 1988	Apr 1989	Mar 1989	Apr 1988
All Manufacturing	$415.33	$413.28	$392.78	41.0	41.0	41.0	$10.13	$10.08	$9.58
Durable goods	426.22	424.56	396.32	41.3	41.3	40.9	10.32	10.28	9.69
Lumber and wood products	309.27	307.82	305.31	36.6	36.3	38.5	8.45	8.48	7.93
Furniture and fixtures	331.61	315.17	305.11	41.4	40.2	40.9	8.01	7.84	7.46
Stone and clay products	405.32	392.54	386.76	42.8	42.3	44.1	9.47	9.28	8.77
Primary metal products	472.03	466.51	464.12	45.3	44.9	47.7	10.42	10.39	9.73
Fabricated metal products	435.01	434.70	409.46	42.9	42.0	42.3	10.14	10.35	9.68
Machinery (except electrical)	457.06	458.06	425.86	43.2	43.5	42.8	10.58	10.53	9.95
Electrical products	449.60	445.32	393.67	40.0	40.3	37.6	11.24	11.05	10.47
Miscellaneous products	348.88	343.30	336.44	39.6	39.1	40.1	8.81	8.78	8.39
Other durable goods	408.80	407.60	396.26	40.0	40.0	40.6	10.22	10.19	9.76
Nondurable goods	392.28	390.42	383.46	40.4	40.5	41.1	9.71	9.64	9.33
Food and kindred products	536.01	471.44	467.67	41.2	41.5	39.3	13.01	11.36	11.90
Textile mill products	331.93	332.51	336.00	39.8	40.6	42.0	8.34	8.19	8.00
Apparel	256.50	254.25	228.85	37.5	37.5	32.6	6.84	6.78	7.02
Paper and allied products	474.99	486.18	538.85	44.6	45.1	49.3	10.65	10.78	10.93
Printing, publishing, and allied	424.12	424.14	378.28	39.6	39.2	38.6	10.71	10.82	9.80
Leather and leather products	205.84	203.18	207.16	33.8	33.2	34.7	6.09	6.12	5.97
Footwear	204.83	200.31	208.85	33.8	33.0	35.1	6.06	6.07	5.95
Other nondurable goods	401.44	406.85	403.52	41.3	41.6	42.7	9.72	9.78	9.45

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 46.3%

Total Production Workers: 79,600

Firms Reporting: 298

Manchester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr 1989	Mar 1989	Apr 1988	Apr 1989	Mar 1989	Apr 1988	Apr 1989	Mar 1989	Apr 1988
All Manufacturing	$415.72	$409.37	$394.61	40.4	39.9	39.5	$10.29	$10.26	$9.99
Durable goods	423.60	412.11	395.26	40.0	39.1	38.6	10.59	10.54	10.24
Machinery and electrical products	441.98	431.33	405.82	41.0	40.5	39.4	10.78	10.65	10.30
Other durable goods	399.00	386.51	380.63	38.7	37.2	37.5	10.31	10.39	10.15
Nondurable goods	401.64	402.62	393.33	40.9	41.0	41.1	9.82	9.82	9.57
Textiles and apparel	343.60	354.05	312.84	41.1	41.8	39.5	8.36	8.47	7.92
Other nondurable goods	420.86	419.02	420.75	40.9	40.8	41.7	10.29	10.27	10.09

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 56.7%

Total Production Workers: 8,900

Firms Reporting: 40

Nashua PMSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr 1989	Mar 1989	Apr 1988	Apr 1989	Mar 1989	Apr 1988	Apr 1989	Mar 1989	Apr 1988
All Manufacturing	$510.43	$493.64	$475.38	41.6	41.0	40.7	$12.27	$12.04	$11.68
Durable goods	514.60	504.68	486.21	41.3	40.7	41.1	12.46	12.40	11.83
Machinery and electrical products	559.37	548.37	514.16	41.1	40.5	40.2	13.61	13.54	12.79
Other durable goods	415.17	407.13	421.09	41.6	41.0	43.1	9.98	9.93	9.77
Nondurable goods	492.58	451.73	435.12	42.5	42.1	39.2	11.59	10.73	11.10

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 49.0%

Total Production Workers: 19,050

Firms Reporting: 56

Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr 1989	Mar 1989	Apr 1988	Apr 1989	Mar 1989	Apr 1988	Apr 1989	Mar 1989	Apr 1988
All Manufacturing	$405.30	$403.91	$385.40	42.0	41.3	41.8	$9.65	$9.78	$9.22
Durable goods	428.28	431.39	401.14	41.3	41.4	41.1	10.37	10.42	9.76
Nondurable goods	371.09	362.50	361.63	43.0	41.1	43.0	8.63	8.82	8.41

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 49.2%

Total Production Workers: 14,700

Firms Reporting: 36

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, APRIL 1989

	1989	1988	1987	1986
1982-84=100				
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)				
April Index	123.1	117.1	112.7	108.6
Percent Change From Previous April	5.1	3.9	3.8	1.6
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)				
April Index	121.8	115.7	111.6	107.6
Percent Change From Previous April	5.3	3.7	3.7	1.2
1967=100				
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)				
April Index	368.8	350.8	337.7	325.3
Percent Change From Previous April	5.1	3.9	3.8	1.6
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)				
April Index	362.9	344.7	332.3	320.4
Percent Change From Previous April	5.3	3.7	3.7	1.2

APRIL CPI INDEXES BY CATEGORY

(1982-84=100, except where otherwise noted)

Categories	CPI-U April Index	Percent Change from: Apr 1988	Mar 1989	CPI-W April Index
All Items	123.1	5.1	0.7	121.8
All Items (1967=100)	368.8	5.1	0.7	362.9
Food and Beverages	124.0	6.3	0.6	123.7
Housing	121.6	3.7	0.1	119.8
Apparel and Upkeep	120.9	3.3	1.3	120.0
Transportation	114.6	6.9	2.4	114.5
Medical Care	146.8	7.2	0.5	147.2
Entertainment	125.4	4.8	0.6	124.8
Other Goods and Services	144.7	7.3	0.2	144.4

YEARLY CHANGES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS (1982-84 = 100)

	1988	1987	1986
Average CPI-U Level for Year:	118.3	113.6	109.6
Percent Change from Previous Year Average:	4.1%	3.6%	1.9%
December CPI-U Level for Year:	120.5	115.4	110.5
Percent Change from Previous December:	4.4%	4.4%	1.1%

Note: The CPI data on these tables is unadjusted for seasonal fluctuations.

Source: United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Consumer Price Index for April 1989

- The CPI-U for All Items increased 5.1% over the past year. This was the largest increase for a twelve-month period since October 1982, when price inflation was also 5.1%

- The CPI-U for All Items rose 0.7% from March to April. This was the highest month-to-month change since the June 1982 increase of 1.3%, and ties the 0.7% increases in April 1983 and August 1988.

- The index for Transportation increased more thanthe index for any other expenditure category group, up 2.4% for the previous month. *Gasoline prices* increased 13.3% since March, and 16.6% from April 1988.

- The index for the Apparel and Upkeep category also showed a substantial increase, 1.3% for the previous month. The increase for the year was only 3.3%. This index tends to rise and fall, while indexes for other categories generally only rise. The Apparel and Upkeep index tends to reflect the seasonal introduction of new fashions and the end-of-season clearance sales.

- The Food and Beverages index rose 0.6% from March to April and 6.3% for the previous year. Prices for *fruits and vegetables* rose 1.7% over the month and 9.5% over the year. The *fats and oils* index also showed substantial price increases: 1.0% from March and 10.2% from April 1988.

- Within the Housing category index, increases in *residential rents*, *fuel oil prices*, *electricity prices*, and *local telephone service prices* were partially offset by decreases in *out-of-town lodging costs*, *natural gas prices*, and *toll telephone call prices*.

- The Medical Care category had the highest index of any category, 146.8. *Medical care commodities* rose in cost more than *medical care services*, 0.8% and 0.3% (respectively) in the last month, 7.5% and 7.2% in the last year.

- The Other Goods and Services category contains the highest indexes: *tobacco and smoking products* 159.5 (up 11.6% from April 1988) and *personal and educational expenses* 154.9 (up 6.7% over the previous year).

Ricia Dubuclet

April active applicants totaled 16,102 compared to 16,704 for March, a drop of 600. For the previous March and April there was a drop of 5, but there were only 10,342 active applicants. The number of job openings received increased from 1,131 in March to 1,414 in April, while a year ago job openings fell from 2,173 in March to 2,060 in April. Even with the increase in job openings between March and April of this year, the overall level is still below last year's.

The fact that the number of active applicants is 56 percent above the same month last year and the number of job openings received is 31 percent below last year's, indicates the state's economy has slowed and could slow further. An economic slowdown can be associated with a stronger dollar making products exported abroad less desirable because of the increase in price on the foreign market. The increased price of goods resulting from the stronger dollar leads to a decrease in manufacturing in this country since demand declines. Meanwhile, prices on imports in this county drop or the rate of increase slows. A slowdown in manufacturing leads to lower growth in gross national product (output), while the lower price of foreign goods encourages consumer spending which in turn pushes inflation higher. The big concern is that a continued strong dollar will stifle foreign trade and leave us with a weaker economy.

The number of active applicants, which is 5,760 more than last year, decreased by over 600 between March and April of this year. Structural worker applicants declined by 214, with motor freight and transportation down 109 and machine trades down 55. This indicates that the economy is functioning well, even if at a somewhat diminished level from last year. Professional technical and managerial applicants (-69) and clerical (-33) each had declines in the number of active applicants between March and April 1989, compared to increases (+78 and +23 respectively) for the same two months in 1988. Another sign that manufacturing and export trade may still be doing well was the decrease in

ACTIVE APPLICANTS BY OCCUPATION, APRIL 1989

Area	Professional, Technical, & Managerial	Clerical	Sales	Services	Farm	Processing	Machine Trades	Benchwork	Structural Work	Freight & Transportation	Packaging & Material Handling	Miscellaneous	Total
New Hampshire	2,565	2,688	784	1,917	207	188	1,096	881	3,955	842	812	167	16,102
Berlin	35	91	30	107	5	2	26	22	167	35	39	2	561
Claremont	81	111	16	87	6	10	50	31	102	33	74	6	607
Concord	334	246	71	139	17	10	124	88	347	93	50	16	1,535
Conway	29	43	12	37	5	0	13	11	68	16	6	3	243
Dover	337	406	102	228	24	39	178	151	743	114	68	12	2,402
Keene	125	185	66	171	20	4	83	39	164	30	40	5	932
Laconia	215	270	75	192	34	37	123	66	614	131	54	10	1,821
Lebanon	104	82	35	55	11	3	39	21	90	22	13	2	477
Littleton	65	124	25	118	22	4	36	31	171	34	21	3	654
Manchester	286	380	112	401	21	32	165	145	562	136	189	78	2,507
Nashua	409	336	96	149	14	21	128	157	331	92	134	20	1,887
Portsmouth	363	279	96	177	21	18	86	61	438	60	98	9	1,706
Salem	182	135	48	56	7	8	45	58	158	46	26	1	770

ACTIVE APPLICANTS BY SEX, AGE, MINORITY STATUS, AND VETERAN STATUS, APRIL 1989

Area	Male	Female	Eligible Claimants	Minority	Veterans	Age < 45	Age > 45	Total Active Applicants	Unfilled Openings: Total	Unfilled Openings: 30 Days +
New Hampshire	10,374	5,728	7,704	506	3,422	13,071	3,031	16,102	1,660	833
Berlin	333	228	218	6	67	466	95	561	75	8
Claremont	357	250	119	6	109	511	96	607	79	37
Concord	1,039	496	548	19	364	1,225	310	1,535	164	45
Conway	159	84	133	3	32	195	48	243	17	7
Dover	1,597	805	1,373	46	610	2,002	400	2,402	91	33
Keene	533	399	301	12	181	744	188	932	130	61
Laconia	1,274	547	1,158	14	330	1,479	342	1,821	93	41
Lebanon	304	173	233	12	93	381	96	477	49	9
Littleton	373	281	219	4	98	532	122	654	71	37
Manchester	1,591	916	1,007	152	545	2,071	436	2,507	138	59
Nashua	1,199	688	1,019	141	412	1,491	396	1,887	103	58
Portsmouth	1,130	576	790	62	428	1,379	327	1,706	241	84
Salem	485	285	486	29	153	595	175	770	108	67
All Others									301	287

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table A96

benchwork active applicants form 969 to 881 (-88) while the previous year showed an increase of 99 between those months (607 in March to 706 in April).

Job openings received increased 25 percent between March and April with most of the changes and increases occurring in services (+83), structural (+83) and machine trades (+59). Packaging and material handling (+36) and clerical (+31) also showed solid gains in the number of job openings received. During the same two months a year ago these same industries acted differently. Services (-5) and structural work (-7) registered a slight decrease in job openings received, while machine trades had a significant decline (-26) compared to the increase (+59) between March and April of this year. Clerical job openings a year ago also registered a decline (-8), while packaging and material handling was the only occupation of the five mentioned that showed an increase in each year (+24 in 1988 and +36 in 1989). Although the increase in job openings is a plus, the number of job openings received is still below last year at this time (2,060 in April 1988 to 1,414 in April 1989).

Oliver Northcott

JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED BY OCCUPATION, APRIL 1989

Area	Professional, Technical, & Managerial	Clerical	Sales	Services	Farm	Processing	Machine Trades	Benchwork	Structural Work	Motor Freight & Transportation	Packaging & Material Handling	Miscellaneous	Total
New Hampshire	114	252	66	225	42	30	174	94	265	44	101	7	1,414
Berlin	8	11	3	13	3	0	3	1	2	0	50	1	95
Claremont	2	19	1	6	2	2	12	12	22	4	1	2	85
Concord	31	62	10	11	0	0	16	3	38	4	5	0	180
Conway	1	4	0	5	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	20
Dover	7	28	5	26	7	7	10	7	31	5	7	2	142
Keene	3	15	5	28	2	0	15	5	29	6	8	0	116
Laconia	4	13	4	19	12	1	10	4	8	3	3	1	82
Lebanon	3	13	4	8	0	0	4	0	30	4	2	0	68
Littleton	5	11	1	12	2	4	21	3	20	3	6	1	89
Manchester	13	23	9	29	0	12	7	11	31	8	9	0	152
Nashua	10	20	5	11	1	1	6	11	7	1	2	0	75
Portsmouth	15	21	15	38	1	2	61	22	37	3	4	0	219
Salem	3	10	4	17	1	1	7	15	5	3	4	0	70
All Others	9	2	0	2	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	21

JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED BY INDUSTRY, APRIL 1989

Area	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Construction & Mining	Manufacturing	Transportation, Communication & Utilities	Trade	Finance Insurance, Real Estate	Services	Public Administration	Total	Government Openings in Columns 1-8*
New Hampshire	25	250	433	27	270	52	311	46	1,414	91
Berlin	2	1	49	0	15	4	14	11	96	2
Claremont	3	18	36	1	11	2	11	3	85	5
Concord	2	46	16	4	18	19	67	7	179	18
Conway	0	4	0	0	5	0	8	3	20	3
Dover	8	11	52	3	26	2	39	1	142	27
Keene	2	30	20	1	32	3	27	1	116	3
Laconia	2	14	14	0	17	5	27	3	82	5
Lebanon	0	29	6	8	8	2	13	2	68	2
Littleton	1	22	36	1	13	5	8	3	89	2
Manchester	0	25	49	4	39	5	26	4	152	4
Nashua	0	14	29	0	16	3	13	0	75	0
Portsmouth	1	26	96	4	48	2	38	4	219	15
Salem	0	9	22	1	21	0	16	1	70	1
All Others	4	1	8	0	1	0	4	3	21	4

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table 10

* *This column includes Job Openings received from government-owned-and-operated employers in all types of industries. It consists of numbers that are included in the first eight columns.*

Notes of Interest:

Poverty in New Hampshire Substantially Lower than in Other Northern New England States

The number of persons in New Hampshire with incomes below poverty remained basically unchanged between March, 1987 and March, 1988 despite a continuing strong rate of population growth. The estimated 42,100 persons below poverty represented 3.9 percent of the total household population (excludes those persons living in group quarters). In 1988, a smaller proportion of older persons had incomes below the poverty thresholds than in 1987.

In sharp contrast to New Hampshire, the poverty rate for Maine in 1988 was 12.5 percent. About 19.5 percent of the State's youth (over 56,000 under age 18) were living below poverty compared with only 2.7 percent in New Hampshire. For Vermont, 10.8 percent of the population were found to have below-poverty incomes, and 15.6 percent of the population under 18 years of age could be classified as poor according to standard definitions.

New Hampshire Household Population

	All Persons			Persons in Families		
	Total	Below Poverty:		Total	Below Poverty:	
	Number	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Percent
All Ages						
March 1988	1,068,230	42,060	3.9%	904,350	18,270	2.0%
March 1987	1,038,690	42,020	4.0%	889,520	16,620	1.9%
Below 18						
March 1988	265,990	7,210	2.7%	263,600	4,820	1.8%
March 1987	248,950	5,500	2.2%	247,410	3,960	1.6%
18-64 Years						
March 1988	683,510	27,750	4.1%	562,770	11,760	2.1%
March 1987	673,670	25,380	3.8%	564,680	10,980	1.9%
65 and Over						
March 1988	118,770	7,100	6.0%	77,970	1,690	2.2%
March 1987	116,080	11,140	9.6%	74,430	1,690	2.3%

Source:
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census
Annual Demographic Surveys - March 1987, March 1988

These estimates are derived from the March Demographic Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau which includes a very small sample of each state's households. The survey is designed to produce data on a national basis. Consequently, state data is not as reliable. To determine poverty status, total money income of a family or unrelated individual, including wages, interest, retirement payments, etc., is tested against the appropriate dollar threshold. There are 48 thresholds based on family size and number of children under 18. Population estimates are for March while the income level refers of the preceding calendar year.

Richard Frye

Wages of Production Workers in New Hampshire Move Higher in Rank with Other States

Revised data on average weekly earnings of production workers show that New Hampshire wages have climbed higher in comparison with other states than preliminary estimates had indicated. The $394.07 average for 1988 is a jump from 37th place in 1985 to 32nd among all the states and District of Columbia. New Hampshire's average still has a long way to go to match Massachusetts and Connecticut at $424 and $452 to say nothing of the near $200 per week gap between New Hampshire and Michigan ($581.52).

Average Weekly Earnings of Production Workers on Manufacturing Payrolls

New England States	1988	1987	1986
Connecticut	$451.86	$440.37	$420.93
Maine	381.71	363.96	351.19
Massachusetts	423.74	400.57	381.61
New Hampshire	394.07	382.75	361.32
Rhode Island	337.73	328.00	319.16
Vermont	386.51	370.27	359.38
Top Ten States			
Highest	$581.52	$547.33	$545.28
Tenth rank	443.69	436.77	427.46

Source:
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Employment and Earnings, May 1989

Richard Frye

1989 Child Support Legislation

Over the next several months the Division of Human Services, Office of Child Support Enforcement Services will be implementing laws recently enacted by the New Hampshire Legislature. Two of those laws will have major impacts on the business community and basic information is being provided now to inform employers in New Hampshire.

The Legislature amended the wage withholding statute RSA 458-B:3,4. Under the current law, the Division cannot initiate a wage withholding until the responsible parent owed an amount equal to one month's child support obligation. Senate Bill 46 now allows immediate wage withholding for all cases initiated or modified by the Division after the effective date of the law, unless there is a written agreement between the parties or a court finds there is good cause not to require immediate wage withholding. The Division anticipates the number of child support cases with wage withholding will increase significantly. Of the current caseload of 15,000, 26% currently have wage withholding. The percentage could increase to 40% - 50% over the next several months. The law is effective July 14, 1989.

Another piece of major legislation is effective July 7, 1989. Under RSA 161-C:3-b, the Office of Child Support Enforcement Services must obtain health insurance information on children that parents responsible are required to cover. The Division is also authorized to request and receive notification from employers or insurance companies when a responsible parent's medical insurance coverage has lapsed.

For additional information on these new pieces of legislation and their impact on an individual employer, please contact:

Jane Peel, Public Informational Officer
Division of Human Services
N.H. Department of Health and Human Services
6 Hazen Drive
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-6521

Or, you may call her at (603) 271-4284.

Corrections

The following corrections should be made to the May issue of Economic Conditions:

On page 5, the column headings for monthly data for each MSA should read "March 1989", "February 1989", and "March 1988", instead of "February 1989", "January 1989", and "February 1988".

On page 7, in the next-to-last paragraph, delete the words "Farm (+39)" from the beginning of the second sentence. Farm-related new openings actually had declined by 39 during that time period, as indicated in the last paragraph.

On page 10, in the top chart, "U.S. Consumer Price Index, March 1989", the month "February" should be changed to "March". The index data is the March data, not the February data.

On page 12, the table should be labelled "Weekly Claims Filed During March". The month's name had not been changed.

WEEKLY CLAIMS FILED DURING APRIL
CLASSIFIED BY LOCAL OFFICE

Area	U. C. Unemployment Compensation		State Workers (Only)		U. C. Local Government		Ex-Military Servicemen (UCX Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No U.I.	
	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims
All Offices	3,714	19,381	23	43	6	12	22	41	20	17
Berlin	244	1,041	0	2	1	6	1	2	0	1
Claremont	141	410	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Concord	333	1,820	6	2	1	0	0	3	1	2
Conway	157	1,060	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Dover	376	2,143	0	1	0	0	6	11	9	3
Keene	141	669	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0
Laconia	259	2,173	0	2	0	0	2	5	0	2
Lebanon	71	398	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	1
Littleton	209	1,114	13	20	0	2	0	0	0	1
Manchester	709	3,346	1	6	0	0	4	4	4	5
Nashua	442	1,997	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	2
Portsmouth	262	1,496	0	1	3	0	3	8	3	0
Salem	126	721	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0
Liable Interstate	244	991	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	0

The average payment for a week of total unemployment: $125.31

The Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance at the End of the Month: $190,045,965.64

Net contributions received during the month: $5,644,503.17

Net benefits paid during the month: $2,076,228.22

Interest Received: $0.00